

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [018] with the following amended paragraph:

[018] Figure 3 is a block diagram of an alternative implementation of a transceiver/transponder module that enables automatic selection of an operational data rate; and

Please replace paragraph [019] with the following amended paragraph:

[019] Figure 4 is a block diagram of another implementation of a transceiver/transponder module that enables automatic selection of an operational data rate; and Figure 5 illustrates aspects of an exemplary method for automatically selecting a data rate.